

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of Meeting 99-6

held

Friday, December 3, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in H 769

Present: Dr. N. Esmail (Chair), Dr. M.O. Ahmad, Dr. A.K. Athienitis, Mr. J. Baxter, Dr. R. Bhat, Dr. B.C. Desai, Dr. T. Fancott, Dr. R. Ganesan, Dr. W. Ghaly, Dr. J.C. Giguère, Ms. L. Harris, Dr. J.F. Hayes, Dr. V.S. Hoa, Mr. I. Kazim, Dr. K. Khorasani, Mr. J. Kopanas, Dr. H.F. Li, Dr. O. Moselhi, Dr. J. Opatrny, Ms. C. Paradisis, Mr. C. Piché, Dr. E.I. Plotkin, Dr. A. Ramamurthy, Ms. A. St-Hilaire, Dr. J. Svoboda, Dr. C.W. Trueman, Dr. R. Zmeureanu, Ms. S. de Souza (Recording Secretary).

Observers: Prof. L. Quesnel, Ms. E. Xenos

Regrets: Dr. F. Haghighat, Dr. J. Jans, Dr. C. Lam, Prof. M. Silas

Guest: Dr. B. Ashtakala

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 99-06-01 The agenda was unanimously adopted. (B.C. Desai, C. Piché)

Vote: Carried unanimously.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Motion 99-06-02 The Minutes of Meeting 99-05 (October 29, 1999) were unanimously adopted. (R. Bhat, E.I. Plotkin)

Vote: Carried unanimously.

3. Chair's Remarks

New Engineering Building

The Chair remarked that in the last Rector's Advisory Group meeting, it was apparent that Concordia University is going ahead with two projects simultaneously - a Science building at Loyola and an Engineering building downtown. The Engineering building is expected to be opened in September 2002. An Engineering Building Task Force Committee has been established within the Faculty to look after lobbying for more money, assistance from outside as well as to start a planning process which will carry the project into its next phase, that is, contemplating the building size, etc. The building will be on Guy/Ste. Catherine lot. However, plans indicate that the new building on Guy Street may be an extension of the GM building.

Accreditation Results

Initially the Faculty had received accreditation for programs in Building, Mechanical, Electrical and Computer Engineering for three years. In June, data reflecting changes in the area of design, number of faculty members that are professional engineers and teaching engineering science, was submitted to the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB). Accreditation for the above programs was granted for another three years. Therefore, the above programs and Civil Engineering have accreditation until 2003. A CEAB visit is due in fall 2002 and the visit for the Software Engineering program is expected in 2001.

Resolution of issues in Graduate Programs

The question is how many credits should be assigned to the M.Eng. program. The objective is to make the M.Eng. student load reasonable and comparable with other universities in Canada as well as to alleviate the pressure in graduate courses where M.Eng. students outnumber thesis students. Reducing the number of courses that M.Eng. students are required to take can help resolve the problem.

4. Graduate Curriculum Changes (ECFC Doc. 99-6-1)

Dr. Bhat presented the graduate curriculum changes for the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Department of Mechanical Engineering

There were three courses, two slot courses, each to be offered in winter 2000, and one Graduate Certificate program course.

MECH 690P Topics in Mechanical Engineering I
 Asymptotic Methods in Mechanics of Shells;
MECH 690Q Rheology of Polymeric Liquids

Motion That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science approve Slot
99-06-03 Course MECH 690P and Slot Course MECH 690Q as outlined in Document ECFC
Doc.99-6-1. (R.B. Bhat, V.S. Hoa)

Vote: Carried unanimously.

MECH 515, an additional offering in the Graduate Certificate Program, was also proposed. Minor editorial changes were recommended and accepted.

Motion That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science approve Course
99-06-04 MECH 515 as outlined in Document ECFC Doc.99-6-1. (R.B. Bhat, V.S. Hoa)

Vote: Carried unanimously.

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Two slot courses, each being offered in winter 2000, were proposed.

ELEC 690U Discreet Event Systems

ELEC 690V Microwave Engineering

Motion That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science approve Slot
99-06-05 Course ELEC 690U and Slot Course ELEC 690V as outlined in Document ECFC
Doc.99-6-1. (R.B. Bhat, J.C. Giguère)

Vote: Carried unanimously.

ELEC 453 - Microwave Engineering is already offered at the undergraduate level. The proposal is to pair ELEC 637 with ELEC 453.

Motion That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science approve Course
99-06-06 ELEC 637 as outlined in Document ECFC Doc.99-6-1. (R.B. Bhat, J.C. Giguère)

Vote: Carried unanimously.

5. Policy on Intellectual Property (ECFC Doc. 99-6-2)

The Chair said that there had been pressures from many sides to develop a policy on Intellectual Property (IP). Apart from a brief mention in the Collective Agreement, there is no clear statement of a University Policy on IP. An ad-hoc Committee was set up in the Faculty to study the issue. The Committee was chaired by Prof. Quesnel and comprised representatives from different groups in the Faculty (Drs. O. Moselhi, V.S. Hoa, and C.Y. Suen). Under consideration were two items, (1) IP related to research and the rights of the University/professors/students and others, if applicable; (2) the question of IP and the rights of the University and industrial partners in contract research agreements.

However, at the same time a request was received from the Office of the Provost and Vice-Rector, Research for comments to the draft version of Concordia's Policy on IP, prepared by Legal Counsel. In the light of this request, the Committee set objectives to serve as a guide to the principles in the draft policy. The Committee's comments received support from the Executive Committee, the Department Councils of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering (BCE) as well as Electrical and Computer Engineering. In BCE, there was one editorial change on page 2, item 7 to read:

'Regarding "Distance Education Course Materials" and material posted on the web, it was unanimously agreed that the Faculty member shall retain copyright ownership of distance education course materials and material posted on the web.'

In the Departments of Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering, faculty feedback was invited. One Computer Science faculty member, prior to Faculty Council, expressed support.

Motion That the Comments on the Intellectual Property Policy dated November 1, 1999 in
99-06-07 Document ECFC Doc. 99-6-2 be adopted. (T. Fancott, J.F. Hayes)

Vote: Carried unanimously.

The Chair offered his personal views on the subject. IP, whether it be research material or teaching material, belongs to faculty members. However, provisions have to be provided to ensure that the public/university interest is protected. Course material developed by an individual, be he on sabbatical or sick leave, may be used by the University. But should the individual leave the University, the institution has then the right to use it for a couple of years until the newcomer develops his/her own IP. As regards research results, it is necessary to encourage publications; however, its commercial value is owned by the inventor/professor. The University has to be compensated for development cost, that is, if there is a commercial value in an invention and although the property belongs to the professor, there should be some agreement to assess how much it cost the University in its contribution towards the development of the idea, and the University has to be compensated accordingly.

It has been observed that there is a struggle between certain groups. One bias, following discussions in the Faculty, appears to exclude the University from IP gain, to compensate professors for the development and let them keep their own invention. Another view, which is included in the document, is that IP should be shared between the institution and the inventor; and also, that the University should enter into commercial ventures with the inventor. This, the Chair pointed out, is inappropriate for an organization such as the University since its priority is research/teaching. The Chair expressed his support of the document.

Dr. Giguère explained that the issue of IP would have to be approved by Senate. Clear conditions exist on IP for inventions, textbook material. Material that appears on the web is new ground and has not been addressed in previous policies. It was suggested that the textbook analogy be used in dealing with material on the web. A course that appears in the University calendar belongs to the University. The written course notes developed by the professor to teach the course belong to the professor. If the material goes into a book, the professor negotiates with the publisher and through a mutual contract, receives a certain amount of money for each copy sold. Electronic publishing should be viewed in the same light as written publication.

A member suggested that the above comments be included as a preamble to the document.

A suggestion was also made to find allies in other departments/faculties. Students were reassured about their concerns regarding freedom of access to information.

6. Rules and Procedures for Advisory Search Committee (ECFC Doc. 99-6-3)

It was requested that comments be forwarded directly to Ms. A. Jurgenliemk, Secretary of Senate and Board of Governors.

7. **Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)**
(Dr. B. Ashtakala)

The Chair congratulated Dr. Ashtakala of the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering on his election as a Fellow of the ASCE. Highlights in Dr. Ashtakala's career were noted.

8. **Other business**

No other business.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.